

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of maintaining the pressure difference in a heat treatment plant for liquid food products, of the type in which, in a production disruption, the insufficiently treated product is caused to recycle by a return stroke, characterized in that the pressure difference after a return stroke is maintained in that the treated product is enclosed in a conduit on the downstream side (14) of the plant; and that the space for the product there is restricted.

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2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the product is enclosed between a return stroke valve (12) and a shut-off valve (20).

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3. The method as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the space for the product is restricted in that a gas is introduced into the product conduit.

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4. The method as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that gas is led into the product conduit between the return stroke valve (12) and the regenerative section (6) of the downstream side (14).

5. The method as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that gas is led into the product conduit in the shut-off valve (20).

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6. The method as claimed in ~~Claims 1 to 2~~, characterized in that the space for the product is restricted in that a part of the product conduit (29) consists of an expansive portion (27) which forms a throttle in the product conduit (29).

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7. The method as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that the expansive portion (27) consists of a pipe length (28) with an inner elastic wall (30) which expands in that gas or liquid is introduced into an interspace (32) between the pipe length (28) and the wall (30).